



OCIC NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION

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Welcome to the winter edition of the OCIC Newsletter!

We hope you find this to contain useful information regarding national and international vaccine news, articles, and updates from our partners. We also hope to send more of our notifications with less use of paper.

Orange County Immunization Coalition Bi-Monthly Education Meeting

**"Improving Childhood Immunization Rates:
A Comprehensive Clinic-based Approach"**

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

8:00 a.m to 9:30 a.m

Presented by:

Albert Chang, MD, MPH - Regional Medical Director, Orange County &

Jessica Wright, MPH - Clinical Quality Analyst, Quality Performance Improvement Department AltaMed Health Services Corporation

Topics: Creating a culture of vaccinating, aligning goals with multi-disciplinary teams, identifying barriers and developing best practices, improving communication and holding accountability, special concerns for pre-natal/neo-natal populations.

To RSVP, contact Linda Scott at (714) 834-8095 or Liscott@ochca.com or click [here](#) for more info.

It's Not Too Late!

Be prepared - the "flu season" is hitting epidemic levels nationwide and beginning to peak here in California. It's definitely not too late to get your annual influenza immunization. For a list of locations for a free flu shot, including the HCA clinic in Santa Ana, which is open to the public every Thursday for walk-in services, go to the OC Health Care Agency's webpage at www.ochealthinfo.com/flu

For the latest information on influenza disease activity within the county, state and nation, just click on the HCA Epidemiology link for their "Eye on Influenza" newsletter updates at <http://ochealthinfo.com/phs/about/dcepi/epi/flu/eye>

Calling All Pediatric Medical Assistants! Immunization Skills Refresher For Medical Assistants

OCIC will be hosting their spring Immunization Skills Institute Refresher for Medical Assistants on **Saturday, March 21st from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm**. This very popular class is led by experienced immunization nurses using curriculum developed by the California Immunization Branch to "refresh" the skills of experienced MAs who administer pediatric vaccines.

To register go to www.ochealthinfo.com/ocic and click on "Trainings" or for more information call 714-834-8560.

[LEARN MORE](#)

CIC Annual Summit

Ready, Set, Vaccinate! Is the theme of the 2015 Immunization Summit hosted by the California Immunization Coalition on April 26-27 at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside. This outstanding annual event brings together health professionals and public health advocates to discuss innovative ideas and strategies for improving immunization rates through new and existing partnerships. For more information go to the CIC website at www.immunizeca.org.



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Skip the Resolutions!

Written by Suzi Bouveron, MPH

This year don't make New Year's resolutions. They're much too hard to keep! This year make small changes towards a healthier you. Here are 5 immunization-related steps you can take to start 2015 off right



1. Get your flu shot if you haven't gotten it yet. The CDC says that about half the country is experiencing high flu activity. Everyone 6 months and older is recommended to get an annual influenza vaccination. What are you waiting for?
2. Talk to your provider about cervical cancer prevention, including HPV vaccine. January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. HPV vaccine is a safe and effective way to prevent many types of cancer. HPV vaccine is a 3-dose vaccine series recommended for girls and boys starting at age 11-12 years.
3. Check your kids' shot records. Make sure their info is up-to-date. Better, make sure their info is in the immunization registry! As you know, California's measles cases are making national headlines. And pertussis (whooping cough) is still wide-spread.
4. Check the grownups' records, too! Shots aren't just for little kids. And life's no fun when you are-or your spouse is-sick.
5. And last but not least, don't forget to wash your hands! Washing your hands is one of the best ways to prevent illness.

Best wishes for a healthy and safe 2015. For more information, visit these helpful websites: [CDPH Immunization Branch](#), [CDC](#), the [Vaccines For Children Program](#), and [the California Immunization Coalition](#).

Successful school-based vaccination clinics

Written by Pamela Kahn, MPH, BS, RN

Coordinator, Health and Wellness

Orange County Department of Education



The Orange County Department of Education, in partnership with Kaiser Permanente and the Orange County Health Care Agency, is pleased to have completed the School-Located Flu Vaccine Clinics for the 2014-15 flu season. Six Orange County school districts participated in this innovative program; Savanna, Anaheim City, Garden Grove, Magnolia, Buena Park and Santa Ana. The clinics began on 10/29/14 and the last one took place on 12/12/14. In total, there were sixty-two elementary schools that held clinics, and a total of 5, 160 students received flu vaccines. Participation rates varied greatly between school sites, ranging from 4 to 35%.

These vaccines were administered free of charge to any interested student; Kaiser supplied

the vaccine for their members and the OCHCA provided flu vaccine for those students not eligible for vaccines under the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program and/or insured by another health carrier other than Kaiser Permanente.

Kaiser provided the necessary supplies and promotional materials, and nursing students affiliated with Kaiser Permanente administered the vaccines providing a no-cost support and gaining community health experience as part of their community health rotation. The school district nurses were instrumental in organizing the clinic at each site; obtaining clinic dates, parent permission and finding space on crowded campuses in which to hold the clinics.

Since school-aged children are the most important vector for community transmission of influenza, increasing the number of vaccinated children in Orange County elementary schools creates herd immunity in a vulnerable population, and helps to close health disparity gaps in our communities. The school districts benefit by having decreased school absenteeism, and less transmission of flu to their teachers and other staff.

Next steps are to review what practices worked well this year, and to develop strategies to increase participation by schools and students for next year.

CMS now covering the 2 doses of pneumococcal vaccines for those 65yo and older, as recommended by ACIP

Written by Allison DePaul, PharmD - Ralphs Pharmacy PGY1 Resident

Tracey Low, PharmD - Ralphs Pharmacy PGY1 Resident

Recently, there has been trouble on the pharmacy front regarding the billing procedures of the Prevnar13 vaccine in addition to Pneumovax23 in those over 65 years of age. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) did not immediately adopt the new guidelines for Prevnar13 suggested by the Center for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).



This resulted in Medicare patients not being able complete the suggested vaccine schedules due to CMS restrictions. Fortunately, CMS has recently released their decision to cover a second dose of pneumococcal vaccine under Part B starting February 2015, if the dose is of a different formulation than the first and given at least a year later. Pharmacists are key stakeholders for improving pneumococcal immunization rates and this decision aligns with the ACIP recommendations.

Health practitioners are encouraged to refer their patients to their neighborhood pharmacies to receive their pneumococcal vaccines. Remember, the most successful method to decrease community-acquired pneumonia rates involve informing patients on the need to obtain two separate pneumococcal vaccines once they reach 65 years of age.

